



TCPWQ Newsletter

Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality

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The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality seeks to partner with local, state, and federal government and other stakeholders to provide quality of life and protection of health, environment, and economy that citizens desire and deserve as they serve as stewards of natural resources, system infrastructure, and public funds while solving storm water and water quality issues.

Rain Gardens in the Community

The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality has been making strides to lessen the amount of stormwater that runs off of our streets and into nearby storm drains.

In 2009 the city of Lafayette planted 2 rain gardens at the northwest and northeast corners the courthouse. The purpose of the rain gardens is to 1) slow the stormwater from entering the storm drain 2) filter impurities that are carried off the streets such as soil, oil, and gasoline.

The plant's roots absorb the water before it flows into the storm drain, thus saving the Wabash River from the harmful chemicals that would otherwise flow directly to the river.

The plants and native grasses installed in the rain gardens have been specially selected for our Indiana climate and their ability to live in both wet soils in the spring and fall months and more dry soils in the hot summer months. These plants have adapted to their environment, thus making them ideal for Lafayette's rain gardens.

Examples of the plants include Purple Cone Flower, Rattlesnake Master, New England Aster, and Black Eyed Susan.

The rain gardens are readily available for you to view. This may be an idea you would like to consider in your own backyard. If you have an area that holds water or would like to beautify your yard by redirect-

ing your downspouts from your roof to flow towards a rain garden, the TCPWQ can assist with your questions such as:

- Which plants are good for my soil?
- How deep should I dig?
- Should I water my rain garden in the summer?
- How large should the rain garden be?
- How many plants should I plant?

We hope you familiarize yourself with the TCPWQ's webpage and learn more about what we do in your backyard. For more information please visit www.tippecanoesw.org or contact your representative listed to the left. We look forward to hearing from you.

Beacon Academy Install Rain Garden at Regency Center

Chezni Knight, a junior at the Beacon academy in West Lafayette, wanted to help her community and the environment with a school project. She and her classmates created a rain garden, designed to minimize the stormwater runoff into our water system when it rains. Knight has been working with the Tippecanoe Soil and Water

Conservation District for months.

"Not everybody gets an opportunity to get out there and work with things that they actually want to work on," said Knight. "It's not all out of textbooks. Like I got to take a whole day out of school to come here and play in the rain and dig and plant flowers."

Beyond helping the environment and brightening up the scenery at Regency Place, Knight said she and her classmates enjoyed themselves.

"I would love to think I'm setting an example for other people my age, cause we're paying it forward," she said. Congratulations Chezni on a job well done.



Purdue University volunteers pose with the 2010 De-trash the Wabash. Thank you for your hard work all morning.

**Tippecanoe County
Partnership for Water
Quality
c/o Surveyor's Office
20 North 3rd Street
Lafayette, IN 47901**

Find more great
information at
www.tippecanoesw.org



A beautiful rain garden in bloom

Adopt A River Program Update

The TCPWQ successfully completed their third river clean up along the banks of the Wabash River on the morning of April 10th. The partnership adopted a portion of the Wabash River from the Myers Pedestrian bridge to the Car-gill Inc. property in 2009.

In coordination with the De-trash the Wabash steering committee, the

TCPWQ has assisted in supplying transportation, volunteers, registration assistance, and dumpsters to the event.

Successful completion of the Adopt a River program requires four river clean ups in a 2 year span. The TCPWQ is planning their final clean up of 2010 for mid-October. In a partnership with Purdue Univer-

sity, the TCPWQ will be working with students during Green Week to collect the trash that has accumulated through the summer months.

Look for new signage along the river as you cross the SR 26 bridge acknowledging our hard work and dedication to continued beautification of the Wabash River.

Stormwater Utility Coming to Lafayette

The City of Lafayette is prepared to roll out their new Stormwater Utility. Beginning July 1, 2010, a stormwater user fee of \$4 will be used for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the city's stormwater system.

Highlighting the stormwater improvements include:

- Improving drainage on

Valley Street. This will reduce flooding and improve water quality flowing into the Wabash River.

- Restoration of the Elliott Ditch Stream Bank. This will reduce erosion into the stream and enhance aesthetics as a result of native vegetation.

- South 30th Street Drainage Improvements. This will reduce flooding and im-

prove water quality of storm water run off into the Wabash River.

- Rain Gardens will be planted to reduce pollutants in local waterways and improve the health of the Wabash River. They also provide more green space to the city.

More information available in the next newsletter.

Cost Share Partnership with Lafayette and West Lafayette to Assist Rain Garden Installation

The Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette are partnering with the Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District to assist landowners in their own backyards with money to help pay for the installation of a rain garden.

This unique cost sharing opportunity is only available to landowners in the Lafayette or West Lafay-

ette city limits. This is made possible through a Clean Water Indiana Grant and support from the three organizing agencies.

A maximum of \$150 is being offered as a 50-50 match to assist with the purchase of plants, mulch, and soil amendments. This is only available to the first 60 individuals who attend a Rain Garden

workshop and successfully install a rain garden this summer.

The next Rain Garden workshop will be on Tuesday, May 25th from 7:00pm—8:30pm in the Lilly Nature Center at the Celery Bog Nature Area on Lindberg Road in West Lafayette. This is a free informational workshop open to the public.